Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A pivot assembly for a magnetic disk storage comprising a fixed shaft and a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support an actuator block, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each inner ring of the pair of ball bearings is fixed directly to the fixed shaft and ~~said~~ the pair of ball bearings ~~are~~ is fitted directly into an axial bore of ~~said~~ the actuator block.

2. (Currently Amended) A pivot assembly for a magnetic disk storage comprising a fixed shaft and a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support an actuator block, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each inner ring of the pair of ball bearings is fixed directly to the fixed shaft, each of ~~said~~ the pair of ball bearings is provided with an outer ring having a thickness increased by ~~the~~ a thickness of a sleeve conventionally interposed between a pair of ball bearings and an actuator block, and ~~said~~ the pair of ball bearings ~~are~~ is fitted directly into an axial bore of ~~said~~ the actuator block.

3. (Previously Presented) The pivot assembly according to claim 1, wherein a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings.

4. (Previously Presented) The pivot assembly according to claim 1, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other.

5. (Previously Presented) The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein a spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings.

6. (Previously Presented) The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof, and

said pair of ball bearings are mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other.

7. (Canceled)